

ENABLING GOOD LIVES : SOONER RATHER THAN LATER THE DISABILITY SECTOR IS IN CRISIS AT EVERY LEVEL

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DELIVER

The Minister of Health has acknowledged a **"legacy of under-funding and neglect"**

It is estimated that a further 25% (15,000) disabled New Zealanders and their families, who could be eligible, do not have access to disability supports (a **\$350 million funding gap**)

There is now **at least a 15% gap** between current funding and the actual costs faced by disability providers (a **\$210 million shortfall**)

There is currently a significant gap between projected demand and the funding government has for this financial year (a **\$14 million shortfall**)

THE
DISABILITY SECTOR IS
SHORT \$574M
BY AT LEAST
A YEAR OF
ONGOING
FUNDING



THE CURRENT SYSTEM MANAGES THIS SHORTFALL BY RATIONING ACCESS TO SERVICES & SUPPORT THROUGH:

- Effectively hiding and suppressing need through a lack of information and complex systems
- Funding organisations less than the actual cost of providing services
- Delaying access to supports and services through waiting lists
- Maintaining or reducing individual/family support packages despite same or increasing needs.

THE MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE INFORMED BY ENABLING GOOD LIVES PRINCIPLES IS STRONG...

But there is a growing level of frustration that policy, funding and contracting barriers are limiting what is possible, and forcing compromises that providers are increasingly uncomfortable with.

{ THE WELLBEING OF DISABLED PEOPLE, AND THEIR FAMILIES, HAS BEEN IGNORED FOR TOO LONG } { THERE NEEDS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP CHANGE FROM GOVERNMENT }

BUDGET 2020 NEEDS TO URGENTLY



- Implement a residential pricing model that establishes transparency and equity across providers
- Provide a 5% contract price up lift for each of the next 3 years to address continuing funding shortfalls for providers so that they are not carrying the cost burden and risks of an underfunded system (\$70 million extra per year)
- Expand capacity and availability of employment support and community participation programmes
- Match current and future demand with appropriate levels of funding to avoid systemic rationing (\$350 million of additional ongoing funding)
- Invest in the workforce – qualification and career pathways that are future focused, based on practice frameworks informed by EGL principles and address support worker as well as more specialist roles

POLICY DECISIONS NEED TO URGENTLY



- Roll out Flexible Disability Support contracts nationally so that providers can respond more readily to the changes demanded by the Enabling Good Lives principles – unleash innovation
- Implement a redesigned access pathway so that the system really is “easy to use” and can respond to the 25% currently missing out
- Provide clarity and transparency about the extent of governments commitment to genuine system transformation - or are we now looking at more ‘modest incremental reform’?

A LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO ACHIEVE THE OUTCOMES ENVISAGED BY THE ‘ENABLING GOOD LIVES’ PRINCIPLES



- Let’s have a national conversation about what a “reasonable and necessary” taxpayer contribution to “Enable Good Lives” is, along with how it should be funded in a sustainable way
- Why should we continue with a system that discriminates based on the cause of disability? The expansion of ACC to cover all disability as originally envisaged should be a priority for government.
- It’s time for the government to deliver on Disability funding